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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ekapot Bhunachet, M.D., PhD

Applicant No. 09/936,872

Title: "FLUORESCENCE ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPIC SYSTEM"

U.S. Filing Date: September 17, 2001

Reply to the final action filed on June 14, 2007,  
and interview summary on August 10, 2007

Michael Rozanski

Examiner

Art Unit 3768

Dear Mr Rozanski,

As suggested by examiners, an affidavit that substantially and accurately demonstrates that the results of my invention were not predictable has been submitted.

As mentioned in the affidavit, optical fiber-scopes have typically been used for fluorescence observation, though they provide poor images of inferior quality compared with those of electronic endoscopes (or video-endoscopes) (Reference 14, page 886). It is believed that a conventional miniaturized CCD can hardly detect fluorescence lights, which are extremely weak especially in the case of auto-fluorescence (References 12 and 13). This is because the smaller the CCD, the less sensitive it is to light (Reference 14, page 888). MacAulay et al., themselves, mentioned in US 5,827,190 (Palcic B, MacAulay C, et al.) (col. 2, lines 14-18) that, *"Prior art endoscopes have been developed that permit the image sensor to be located at the tip of the endoscope probe, however, in general, this endoscope equipment is intended*